

REMARKS

Applicants' representative cordially thank Examiner Chowdhury and her Supervisor Examiner Tran for the courtesy of conducting a personal interview on January 17, 2007. Further to the interview, agreement was reached concerning specific claim language as indicated above to distinguish the current claims over the applied prior art, specifically U.S. Patent No. 6,311,011 to Kuroda.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,311,011 to Kuroda (hereinafter Kuroda). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and based on the claim amendments above pursuant to the discussion during the personal interview of January 17, 2007, obviate the rejection under § 102 to Kuroda.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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